

not used

"Extract from Interrogation of Major General Eugene Att, 28 Feb. 1946
1400-1600 Hrs, pp. 12 to 16."

Q. I see. Next, I want to ask you about ITAGAKI, Seishiro. Did you know him?

A. I know him.

Q. When did you get acquainted with him?

A. I met him for the first time as Chief of the General Staff of the Kwantung Army.

Q. What time was that?

A. In the winter of 1935 to 1936.

Q. Did you talk to him at that time?

A. I had a chance in this winter to make an interesting reconnoitering flight on the Russian border south of Harbin and alongside the Sungari River in the strongest winter time. I had asked for this flight in order to win personally an experience about the fighting conditions in Manchuria in winter time which lasts for about six months, and coming back from this flight I suggested to ITAGAKI to make a kind of speech to his staff about my experiences in order to stop a little the growing activity among that army which I felt during my trip for some conflict with Russia.

Q. Let me ask you now--to interrupt you there--what did you feel about the army? What did you notice about the army there?

A. I noticed in the army a certain activity and a certain tension to have, or to like a conflict with Russia on the border line. It was a kind of strong tension. So, I had the idea it would be useful to stop, as I could to do it, this tension to a certain extent because I considered it would be a very bad thing to have a conflict with Russia because the Japanese army seemed to be not to be able to go to war. So ITAGAKI asked me to make this speech and seemed to be very satisfied with the tendency of my speech, "Stop your activity and improve your conditions first."

Q. What did ITAGAKI say in regard to the activities of the Japanese army up to that time in Manchuria in China and those places?

A. He mainly asked my experiences about my trip and discussed my opinion about the necessity of consolidating the defense system.

Q. What did you mean by "defense system?"

- A. Defense system? I found on several places I considered the system as a whole not very effective owing to many military details, for instance--
- Q. I don't believe you understood my question. Why was it necessary for defense and defense against what?
- A. Border defense against Russia. I mean the defense system--every country has their permanent defense system--it wasn't especially necessary--
- Q. Were they expecting Russia to attack?
- A. They didn't say, but every country had to build up a permanent defense system.
- Q. What was said about the defense they were using in China and Manchuria at that time?
- A. Beg your pardon?
- Q. Did you discuss the defense of Manchuria?
- A. Manchuria only. Because my trip was limited to a part of Manchuria.
- Q. I see.
- A. In a purely military way this discussion. Later on, I met ITAGAKI a second time as a War Minister when I came back from Berlin in 1938 to begin my Ambassadorship in Tokyo. Then I asked him about his opinion of the development of the China conflict at that time, because, as I mentioned on another occasion, I tried to stop the danger of a German-English conflict in that time. So when I heard from him that the Japanese army has developed in the meantime during my absence a fighting of life and death in China, I reported to my government that at the present time the Japanese are unable to do anything else than to occupy themselves with their fighting in China.
- Q. Now, what did ITAGAKI say about their advances there? Did he talk to you about what was happening there?
- A. He gave me only a common general aspect that in the meantime they had advanced further on. At present time I don't know the names of the places.
- Q. Why did he say they had advanced? For what reason?

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A. In order to accomplish the defeat of Chiang Kai-shek.

Q. Did he tell you that was the aim to defeat Chiang Kai-shek?

A. To win the war.

Q. To win the war?

A. This war had in the meantime developed to a fighting of death and life.

Q. Did he say that he was in favor of the Japanese going ahead and winning the war against China? What was his attitude?

A. He was War Minister--

Q. I know that. What did he say?

A. He was War Minister, so of course he told me, "Now we are fighting for death and life. We have to win this war in a complete engagement of our forces."

Q. Then he told you that the Japanese intended to use all their resources and power to win the war?

A. Yes.

Q. And that he was in favor of them going ahead?

A. Probably.

Q. Did he say that?

A. He didn't tell this exactly.

Q. From what he said to you?

A. I had to conclude it.

Q. Yes. Well, did you say anything to him about stopping the war in China?

A. This I couldn't say, no.

Q. You didn't?

A. No. May I add? My main interest at that time was to hear and report to Germany that Japan wasn't able to go on any other adventure against another country; she is limited to her aim or purposes.

Q. Did he tell you at that time what the aims of Japan were?

A. Only winning this Chinese war.

Q. Chinese war? He didn't mention going to Singapore?

A. No, no, nothing. A third role of ITAGAKI, which I didn't talk over with him, personally, was his influence upon the negotiations of a military alliance between Germany, Japan and Italy in 1939. I think he was War Minister at that time. These negotiations eventually failed. After my impression, the army was to a certain extent and probably ITAGAKI personally, in favor of such an alliance, but eventually followed the idea of the navy. It would be not possible for them to engage in an alliance without obligation to act automatically in case of a conflict, because they were not advanced enough in the building up of their fighting forces. But I had no personal talk with ITAGAKI about those questions. It is my impression. He retired when the Hiramama cabinet retired owing to the conclusion of the German-Russo treaty. Generally spoken, ITAGAKI belongs to the most intelligent and able leading army men of Japan.

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1913/1912
「ジョーン・オット」少將訪問板垣
一九四二年二月二十八日 四時—六時 一二頁—一六頁
問 サウカ、次ニ板垣征四郎ニ就イテ訊ネライ。
貴方、彼ヲ知ッテ居ラカ。
答 彼ヲ知ッテ居ル。
問 貴方、何時彼ト知合ヒナッタカ
答 彼が関東軍参謀長、時始メテ彼ニ會ツタ。
問 其レハ何時デアッタカ。
答 一九三五年ノ冬、かう一九三六年ニカケテアル。
問 其、當時貴方ハ彼ト話シタカ
答 其、冬嚴寒、候ニ余ハ露西亞國境哈爾濱、南
方又松花江沿岸ヲ興味深イ偵察飛行ヲ行フ
機會ヲ得タ。余ハ滿洲ニ於ケン六ヶ月間ニ続ク長期戰
闘状況、經驗ヲ親シク得ニガ為ニ此、飛行ヲ願ヒ出
テアルタ。ソレ此、飛行カラ歸リ来テ、旅行中日本
軍、同テ増大シツアト余が感ジタ對露戰爭活
動ヲ幾分テモ抑ヘル為余、經驗ヲ板垣が參謀
達ニ話シ、聞カセル様ニ彼ニ提言セシタコトアル。
問 其、處テ一ト話ヲ中斷スルカ—貴方ハ其、處ニ在ッテ軍
隊ニ就イテドウ感ジタカ。其、處、軍隊ニ就イテ何カ
氣付イタコトガアルカ
答 其、處、軍隊内ニハ國境線ニ於テ露西亞ト紛爭
ヲ云ハタイト云フ様ニ或レ活動又緊張張ガアルコト
ニ氣付イタ。其、レハ一種、非常ニ緊張デアッタ。其、處テ

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余ハ余ニハ出来ル、デアリカウ此、緊張ヲ或ニ程度
抑ヘル、ガ有益デアルト考ヘタ。之ハ日本軍ハ戦闘ヲ南
始出来サウニモナカッタ、テ露西亞ト戦端ヲ南、ハ非
常ニ苦心イト考ヘタカ、デアルソコテ板垣ハ余ニ此演
説ヲスニ様ニ頼ミ、彼ハ余、活動ヲ止メテ先ツ状況
ヲ改善セシト題スル演説、趣旨ニ非常ニ満足ス
ヤウデアッタ。

問 板垣ハ其、時、滿洲中華民国其、他、地域於
ケル日本軍、活動ニ关シテ何ト言フタカ。

答 彼ハ主トシテ余、旅行、体験ニ就イテ謂フ防禦体
制ヲ強固ニスル必要ニ関スル余、意見ヲ論ジタ。

問 防禦体制トハトウ云フ意味カ

答 防禦体制ハ、多ク、軍事的特務ヲ帯ビテナク、為
数ヶ所ニ於イテ其、体制ハ概ニテナリ有効デ無
イト考ヘラレタ矣ヲ其見ス。

例ヘバ――

問 余頃同、意味ガ貴方ニ理解サレカッタト因テ、何故
防禦ガ必要デアッタカ。何ニ対シテ、防衛デアッタカ

答 露西亞ニ対スル國境防衛デツン、防禦体制ヲ意
味スルデアル……何処、國ニモ永久防禦体制ガ
アル……何モ特別……必要ナカッタ……。

No 2

問 露西亞、攻撃ヲ豫期シテナッタカ。

答 彼等ハ何トモ言ハナカッタカ何処、國デモ永久的防

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即体制ヲ作ル必要カアツタリテアル。

向々時彼等が中華民國及滿洲國ニ於テ用ヒテ居タ

防衛ニ就イテドシナコトガ云ハレテ居タカ。

答。今向々モ一度繰返シテ世々ヒタイ。

向々滿洲、防衛ニ就イテ論ジタコトガアルカ

答。滿洲ニ就イテ論ジタ。何故ナラバ余、旅行、滿

洲、一部分ノミニ限定サレテ居タカラデアル。

向々サウカ

答。此、論議ハ全然軍事的見地ヨリ、モデアル。其

ノ後余が一九三八年ニ大使トシテベルリンカラ東京ニ

歸ッテ来タ時、余ハ再ビ陸軍大臣トシテ板垣ニ會

フ。其ノ時余ハ當時ノ支那事變ノ進展ニ就イテ

彼ノ意見ヲ聞イタ。何故ナラバ別ノ機會ニ速ベタ

如ク余ハ其ノ當時、独英戦争ノ危險ヲ阻止セシ

試ミタカラデアル。其処デ余ハ彼カラ日本軍ハ余ハ

留守中、中國於イテ死活ノ戰ヲ開始シタ旨ヲ聞

イタ時、余ハ政府ニ對シ、日本軍ハ現在ハ中國ニ於

ケル戰ニ全カラ盡ス外ハ無イト報告シタデアル。

向々板垣ハ中國ニ於ケル彼等ノ進撃手ニ就イテ

何ト云フナカ。彼ハ貴方ニ其処デ何が起ツテ居

ルカラ話シタカ。

答。彼ハ唯、日本軍ハ其間更ニ進撃手シタト云フ一

般概況ヲ与ヘタケテアル。現在、余ハ其地

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名、寛エテナシ。

問、彼、何故日本軍、進撃シタト云フタカ。如何ナル理
由、為ニカ

4/85 答、蔣介石打倒ヲ定遂スル為ニデアル。

問、彼、其レが目的デアルト云フタカ。——蔣介石ヲ敗
ル事がカ

1200 答、彼、戦ニ勝ツ為デアルト云フタカ。

問、戦ニ勝ツ為ト云フタカ。

答、此、戦、其ノ間ニ死活、戦ニ進展シテナク、デアル。

問、彼、日本軍が押切ツテ対友戦ニ勝ツベキデアルト云
フタカ。彼、能度ハドウデアツタカ。

答、彼、陸軍大臣デアツタカラ、——

問、ソレハ知ツラ居ル。彼、何ト云フタカ。

答、彼、陸軍大臣デアツタラ、彼、勿論余ニ死活、戦ヲ

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No 5

問答

問

唯、中國ト、戦ニ勝ツト云フ事々々デズ。

中國ト、戦カ。彼「シカボ」ル襲撃事ハ何モ云カ。

トガアル。

彼、其時、日本、目的、何デアル貴方ニ話ミ。

ヲ独逸ニ報告スルニツタデアル。

「其目的ニ限定サレテアル」云フ事ヲ聞キ之

モ冒險ヲ行フ事ヲ出来ナイト云フ事ツコ、日本

イカ。当時、余ノ主要関心ハ日本、他、國ニ對シ何

モ言ハセカ。少シ言ヒ足ミタ、事々々云フモヨ

彼ニ何カ言ツタ。

サウデハ中國ニ於ケル戦ヲ止ムコトニ就テ貴方ハ

余ハサウ結論シタデアル。

彼が貴方ニ言フ事々々推測シタ。

彼ハ「バキ」トソウニ言ハセカ。

彼ハサウ言フタ。

他令サウデアツタ。

タ。

ソレ、彼、日本軍ガソレ押切ル事ニ賛成シテ居

然リ。

アルト言フタ。

ソレ、彼、日本、全資源及全兵カラ傾ケルツモリデ

戦ニ勝タネト云フ。

今我々、戦ツテ居ル。我々、全軍ヲ舉ゲテ此、

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問

問答

問答

問答

問答

問答

問答

問答

答

否、否、一言モ云ハナカッタ。之ニ関シ彼トハ個人的ニ何
モ話シ合ハナカッタガ、板垣ノ演ジタ三番目ノ役割ハ一
九三九年ノ独逸、日本、伊太利諸國間ノ軍事同盟交
渉反ボシタ彼ノ影響者デアル。當時、彼ハ陸軍大臣デアル
ト思フ、之等ノ交渉ハ遂ニ失敗ニ終ッタ。余ノ言又多印
象デ、陸軍ハ或ル程度、又板垣自身トシテモ此ノ
種ノ同盟ニ賛成デアル様デアルガ、遂ニ海軍ノ意
見ニ従フ事ニタラ。彼等ハ戦闘部隊構成ニ
今進歩シテ居ナカッタノ戦争ノ場合、自衛的ニ行
動スルト云フ義務ガ規定サレタキナリ同盟ニ参加ス
ルコトハ出来ナカッタノデアル。然シ余ハ之等ノ問題
ニ就テ板垣ト直接話シタ事ハナカッタ。其ハ余
ノ受ケタ印象デアル。独ソノ協定ガ締結サレタ爲
平沼内閣ガ辞職シタ時、彼モ辞職シタ。概
シテ、板垣ハ日本陸軍ノ指導者ノ中、テ最モ才智
凡有能ナ人物ノ一人デアル。